

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 8, 2004. Claims 1 and 10 are the only claims that remain pending in the application, and both are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 8 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections set forth below, and solely to obtain the earliest possible allowance of subject matter for this case, Applicants have chosen to rewrite Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 8, and to rewrite Claim 10 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 17. Thus, Claims 8 and 10 are believed to be allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 7, 10 to 16, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,487 (Venkataman). In light of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into the only remaining claims, the rejections are believed to be obviated. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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